



Docket No.: SON-2321  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:

Hideaki Watanabe et al.

Application No.: 10/040,436

**Confirmation No.: 4774**

Filed: January 9, 2002

Art Unit: 2134

For: PUBLIC KEY CERTIFICATE ISSUING  
SYSTEM, PUBLIC KEY CERTIFICATE  
ISSUING METHOD, DIGITAL  
CERTIFICATION APPARATUS, AND  
PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM

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Examiner: J. E. Elmore

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.